

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 34 without my signature.

The California Constitution provides an important system of checks and balance by giving the people direct control over their government through initiative, referendum and recall. This bill would limit the initiative process by prohibiting a person from paying or receiving money or anything of value based on the number of signatures obtained on such petitions.

As I have stated when vetoing similar legislation, prohibitions on per-signature payments will make it more difficult for grassroots organizations to gather the necessary signatures and qualify measures for the ballot. Therefore, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger